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"It was found, that the more money was given to the poor, the poorer they became." "The motto of modern charity is: '*Not alms, but a friend.*'"

"True men gladly accept the same standard of purity for men and women."

The book is one every citizen, earnest for the welfare of the country, should read, ponder and appropriate.

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THE FEDERAL POWER OVER COMMERCE AND ITS EFFECT ON STATE ACTION. By WILLIAM DRAPER LEWIS, Ph. D., Member of the Philadelphia Bar. Pp. 145. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1892.

Our system of government, in respect to the relation between its different departments, is one of checks and balances. The same is true of the relation existing between the States and the Federal Government; and the same check that is competent to mark the bounds of departmental authority is competent also to mark the boundary between State and Federal action. This check is to be found in the Federal Supreme Court. It is in the power conferred upon this court by the Constitution that harmony is guaranteed and justice insured to both State and national governments.

It was the implied intention of those who framed the Constitution that the Supreme Court should interpret that fundamental law in the light of present existing circumstances and conditions. They foresaw that, as the country developed, constitutional ideas would develop *pari passu*, that all the departments of government would be influenced by the power of current opinion, and that whatever stage of advancement national ideas should reach, the Supreme Court would still remain the champion of such ideas, and its opinions still be the crystallized exponent of constitutional thought.

Of all the changes that have come upon us in a hundred years those in the domain of commerce have been most marked and the most important; and yet the legal interpretation of that term has kept pace with legislative enactments, so that the balance between State and Federal governments in the matter of the regulation of commerce is still preserved according to the intent of the constitution.

To trace the development of these constitutional ideas as set forth in the opinions of the Federal courts is a most interesting and instructive study, as one will find by reading the monograph before us. The author begins with an exposition of the term "commerce," then devotes the first half of the paper to the interpretation of this power from the "exclusiveness of the power of Congress" as set forth by Hamilton and Marshall, the former in *The Federalist* the latter in the case of *Gibbons vs. Ogden*, through all the changes and conflicts down to the latest decisions of the court. The bearing of all the leading cases on the subsequent opinions of the court is shown, and we are led to see the elimination of certain ideas and the enthronement of others which have resulted from the changed methods of communication and a constantly expanding environment, thus indicating the principle that public opinion sooner or later moulds the law.

The latter part of the monograph is concerned with a discussion of the State power of taxation and the State police power, a chapter being devoted to each. The final chapter, and one of especial value, treats of the doctrine of the "silence of Congress." In this connection, the recent cases of *Bowman vs. Chicago*, *Leisy vs. Hardin*, and *In re Rahrer* are considered as furnishing the latest and at the same time most satisfactory opinion of the court upon the Federal power over commerce. As Dr. Lewis states, "they lay down for the guidance of the future members of the bench a rule of interpretation of the will of Congress which is eminently fitted to the social and economic conditions which surround the buying, selling, and transportation of commodities."

In viewing its merits, the faults of the work must not be overlooked. Throughout, a certain lack of care and attention to details is manifested, that detracts from the value of a work of this kind, where citations should be accurate and complete, and the sentences clear and unmistakable. Again, a freer use of dates would have increased the interest and produced greater clearness in the historical view. To the lawyer the date of an opinion may have but slight significance, but to the student of the constitution and to the economist it is an essential feature.

Considering the appellate nature of the Federal courts, the monograph, we think, ought to have included some, at least, of the opinions of the lower courts, especially in cases of marked importance and in cases where decisions were reversed by the Supreme Court. The reasons for this are obvious. A work without these is necessarily incomplete, and constitutes, at most, but a chapter in this great subject.

A complete treatise on the Federal power over commerce still remains to be written. Dr. Lewis's monograph indicates the most satisfactory method of treatment, and the most practical and logical arrangement for such a work.

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NOTIONS FONDAMENTALES D'ÉCONOMIE POLITIQUE ET PROGRAMME ÉCONOMIQUE. Par M. G. DE MOLINARI, Correspondant de l'Institut, Rédacteur en Chef du "Journal Des Économistes." 466 pp. Paris : Guillaumin et Cie. 1891.

This work cannot fail to interest both theoretical and practical readers. As the title implies, political economy—and that, too, of the strictly orthodox type,—is made the basis of an "economic programme." The work is, in fact, an attempt on the part of a *laissez-faire* economist to meet socialism with a plan of social reform. The author demonstrates the essential weakness of socialism, but does not stop with merely negative work. He attempts to show that